

REMARKS

In the Office Action, election is allegedly required under 35 U.S. C. 121 to one of six patentably distinct species of the claimed invention as follows:

Species 1 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 4;
Species 2 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 6;
Species 3 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 7;
Species 4 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 8;
Species 5 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 10 (appears to be FIG. 9); and
Species 6 - the embodiment shown in FIG. 11 (appears to be FIG. 10).

Initially, applicant notes that in the Office Action, Species 5 corresponds to the embodiment shown in FIG. 10 and Species 6 corresponds to the embodiment shown in FIG. 11. However, there is no FIG. 11 in the drawings. In addition, there is no reference in the Office Action to the embodiment shown in FIG. 9. Applicant suspects that species 5 should correspond to FIG. 9 and species 6 should correspond to the embodiment shown in FIG. 10.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is referred to as being generic. However, claims 1-16 have been earlier canceled and replaced with claims 17-31. Thus, main independent claim 17 would be generic. By this amendment, claim 29 which inadvertently depended from claim 1 has been amended to now depend from claim 17.

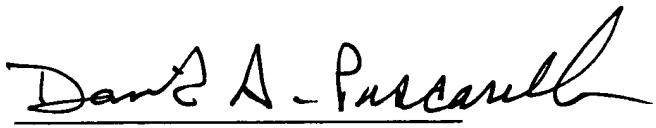
In response to the Office Action and in light of the above discussion, the applicant hereby provisionally elects Species 1 (the embodiment shown in FIG. 4) in which claims 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 26-30, and 31 are believed to be readable thereon for prosecution at this time. It is also believed that these claims also appear to be readable on Species 2, 3, and 5. Additionally, claims 21, 22, and 26-31 are believed to be generic, as well as claim 17.

Applicant acknowledges that upon allowance of any generic claims, all claims dependent thereon will also be considered, regardless of whether such dependent claims read upon the elected species.

CONCLUSION

An action on the merits and a notice of allowance therefore, are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise in connection with this application, applicant's attorney can be reached at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,


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